Amendments to the Claims

1. (canceled)

2. (original) 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (original) 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide.

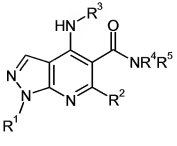
Claims 4–5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A ~~compound or~~ salt as claimed in claim 2 ~~4 or 5~~, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt has been formed by combination of 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid having a pKa of 1.5 or less.

7. (currently amended) A ~~compound or~~ salt as claimed in claim 2 ~~4 or 5~~, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt of the 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide comprises a hydrobromide, hydrochloride, sulfate, nitrate, phosphate, p-toluenesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, methanesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, or naphthalenesulfonate salt thereof.

8. (original) 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide hydrochloride.

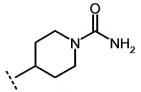
9. (original) A method of preparing a compound of formula (IA), or a salt thereof:



(IA)

wherein:
R^1 is ethyl;
R^2 is a hydrogen atom (H);

R^3 is an N-aminocarbonyl-piperidinyl group of sub-formula (bb) which is not substituted on a ring carbon:

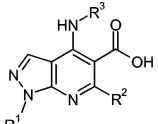


(bb) ;

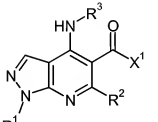
R^4 is a hydrogen atom (H);
and R^5 is (3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl;

wherein the method comprises:

(a) converting a compound of formula (II) into an activated compound of formula (III) wherein X^1 = a leaving group substitutable by an amine:



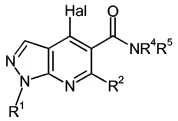
(II)



(III)

and subsequently reacting the activated compound of formula (III) with an amine of formula R^4R^5NH; or

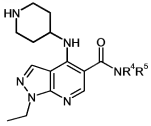
(b) reacting a compound of formula (VIIA):



(VIIA)

wherein Hal is a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom,
with an amine of formula R^3NH_2 or a salt thereof; or

(c) reacting a compound of formula (X) or a salt thereof



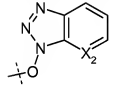
(X)

with a urea-forming reagent capable of converting the (4-piperidinyl)amino group in the compound of formula (X) into a [(1-aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino group;

and, in the case of (a), (b) or (c), optionally converting the compound of formula (I) into a salt thereof; or

(g) in a method of preparing a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of formula (I), converting the compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof into the desired pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the activated compound of formula (III) is the acid chloride, or the activated compound of formula (III) is an activated ester wherein the leaving group X^1 is



X_2 = CH or N

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein, in formula (VIIA), Hal is a bromine atom or a chlorine atom.

12. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, ~~10 or 11~~, wherein in step (c) the urea-forming reagent is trimethylsilyl isocyanate.

Claims 13–25 (canceled).

26. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or excipients.

27. (original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 26, which is suitable for external topical administration to a human.

Claims 28–34 (canceled).

35. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 27~~, 28, 30, 31, 32 or 33,~~ which is an ointment comprising:
- 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof present at 0.1% to 3% w/w;
- an oil phase (oily ointment base) present at 25% to 99% w/w;
- one or more surfactants present in total at 0.5% to 10% w/w; and
- one or more agents acting as a skin-penetration enhancer present in total at 0.5% to 50% w/w.

36. (original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 35, which is an ointment comprising:
- 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof present at 0.2% to 1.5% w/w;
- an oil phase (oily ointment base) present at 50% to 80% w/w, and comprising white petrolatum present at 45 to 75% w/w, and also comprising mineral oil present at 2.5% to 15% w/w;
- one or more surfactants present in total at 3% to 10% w/w; and
- one or more hydrophilic agents acting as both a solubiliser and skin-penetration enhancer, present in total at 5% to 50% w/w;
wherein, in the ointment composition, the oil phase (oily ointment base) and the hydrophilic solubiliser/penetration-enhancer phase have been emulsified to form an ointment emulsion.

37. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 27~~, 28 or 30,~~ which is a water-in-oil cream comprising:
- 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof present at 0.1% to 3% w/w;
- an oil phase (oily ointment base) present at 25% to 85% w/w;
- water present in 2% to 30% w/w;
- one or more surfactants present in total at 0.5% to 12% w/w; and
- one or more agents acting as a skin-penetration enhancer present in total at 0.5% to 50% w/w.

38. (original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 37, which is a water-in-oil cream emulsion comprising:
- 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof present at 0.2% to 1.5% w/w;

- an oil phase (oily ointment base) present at 35% to 70% w/w, and comprising white petrolatum present at 30% to 65% w/w, and also comprising mineral oil present at 2.5% to 15% w/w;
- water present in 5% to 25% w/w;
- one or more surfactants present in total at 3% to 10% w/w; and
- one or more hydrophilic agents acting as both a solubiliser and skin-penetration enhancer, present in total at 5% to 50% w/w.

39. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 27~~, 28 or 30,~~ which is an oil-in-water cream comprising:
- 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof present at 0.1% to 3% w/w;
- an oil phase (oily ointment base) containing one or more ingredients capable of acting as emollients, the oil phase being present at 20% to 60% w/w;
- water present in 15% to 75% w/w;
- one or more surfactants present in total at 0.5% to 12% w/w; and
- one or more agents acting as a skin-penetration enhancer, present in total at 0.5% to 50% w/w.

40. (original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 39, which is an oil-in-water cream emulsion comprising:
- 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof present at 0.2% to 3% w/w;
- an oil phase (oily ointment base) containing one or more ingredients capable of acting as emollients, the oil phase being present at 30% to 55% w/w;
- water present in 15% to 50% w/w;
- one or more surfactants present in total at 3% to 10% w/w; and
- one or more hydrophilic agents acting as both a solubiliser and skin-penetration enhancer, present in total at 5% to 50% w/w;

wherein the oil phase comprises mineral oil present at 20% to 45% w/w, and/or comprises microcrystalline wax present at 5% to 25% w/w, and/or comprises a silicone present at 0.5% to 10% w/w.

41. (new) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of an inflammatory and/or allergic disease in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of 4-{[1-(aminocarbonyl)-4-piperidinyl]amino}-N-[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof alone, or in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

42. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein the disease is atopic dermatitis.